THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 7th August 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, I request that both the questions, Nos. 1127 and 1128 may be taken up together."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection. We shall take up both the questions together."

Raids by the French Indian Police and Goondas into the State territory.

* 1127 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received reports of raids by French Indian Police and Goondas into the State territory recently; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken to prevent such raids?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Government have received reports of three raids by French Indian Police and goondas into this State territory recently. The circumstances of each incident are given below :—

(i) On 23rd March 1954, a posse of French Indian Police trespassed into the Indian Union limits in Kattupalayam borders in Cuddalore taluk and kidnapped one Nandagopal, Mayor of French Mudaliarpet.

(ii) On 12th April 1954, a group of French Indian rowdies trespassed into the jack fruit and cashewnut gardens belonging to a pro-mergerite and removed the jack fruits and cashewnuts. When the Sub-Inspector of Police, Kottakuppam, proceeded to the spot to investigate into the case, a crowd of about 400 rowdies resorted to stone throwing and dragged some of the pro-mergerites in the Indian Union limits with a view to kidnap them. The French Police, which was within the Indian territory at once opened fire to help the goondas. Three pro-mergerites sustained gun shot wounds. The Sub-Inspector, Kottakuppam, thereupon ordered his S.A.P. men to return fire upon the French personnel. At this, the French military police retreated to their territory.

On 1st May 1954, when an M.S.P. lorry was returning from Kodukur to Pudukuppam near the French Chettipet road, the Naick driver noticed a palmyra trunk laid across the road to obstruct his passage. When he was clearing the

[7th August 1954

obstruction with the help of a constable who was with him, the villagers numbering about 300 began to throw stones on the lorry and the policemen. The vehicle received a number of dents and the constable who was with the driver, sustained an injury. After warning, the constable fired 2 rounds, and the crowd dispersed. Two persons are reported to have sustained gun shot wounds.

" (b) Adequate police personnel have been stationed in the area to prevent violation of Indian territory."

Opening of fire by the French Police within the borders of the Madras State.

* 1128 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of firings by the French Police within the borders of the Madras State in the month of April 1954, and the action taken by the State Government?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The French Police opened fire within the borders of the Madras State on only one occasion and that was on 12th April 1954 at Pillaichavadi in Indian Union limits. The circumstances of this incident are as follows :—

' A group of French Indian rowdies trespassed into the jack fruit and cashewnut gardens belonging to a pro-mergerite and removed the jack fruits and cashewnuts. When the Sub-Inspector of Police, Kottakuppam, proceeded to the spot to investigate into the case of theft, a crowd of rowdies (French Indians), about 400 in number collected in Indian Union limits, resorted to stone throwing and dragged some of the pro-mergerites towards French soil, with a view to kidnap them. The French Police, which was within the Indian territory with the goondas, at once opened fire to help the goondas in kidnapping the refugees. Three pro-mergerites sustained gun shot wounds. The Sub-Inspector, Kottakuppam, thereupon ordered his three S.A.P. men to return the fire. At this, the French military police retreated to the French territory along with the rowdies.

This incident was registered and investigated as Crime No. 21 of 1954 of Kottakuppam Police station under Sections 147, 148, 149, 447 and 307, Indian Penal Code, and under the Arms Act. The Police strength at Pillaichavadi has been reinforced and instructions have been issued to the Police to prevent such acts of aggression by the French. The incident was reported to the Government of India. The Consul-General at Pondicherry has protested about the incident to the Commissioner of the Republic for the French Establishments in India, Pondicherry, with the request that action may be taken to punish the persons responsible for this unlawful act and to award immediate compensation to those whose properties were looted and who have been the victims of the French Police firing.' "